

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-03 SS-20

NSC-07 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 061458Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2065

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 21081

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FRENCH POLICY ON PART CHARTERS

REF: PARIS 17482

1. SUMMARY--WE HAVE CONFIRMATION SGAC HAS AUTHORIZED AIR FRANCE OPERATE NORTH ATLANTIC PART CHARTERS ON ITS 747 SCHEDULED SERVICE. AIR FRANCE NOW INTENDS OPERATE ALL ITS NEW WEEKEND ITC'S TO US AS PART CHARTERS ON 747 SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. GOF MAY SOON BE DISCUSSING WEEKEND ITC'S AND STUDENT FARES WITH CAB. EMBASSY HOPES PART CHARTER PROBLEMCAN BE RESOLVED INDEPENDENTLY OF WEEKEND ITC'S IN WHICH USTS AND US CARRIERS ARE INTERESTED. FURTHER COMMENTS FOLLOW BY LETTER.

2. WE HAD REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (PARA 5 REFTTEL) SGAC ADMISSION THAT ON OCCASION AIR FRANCE OPERATION OF PART CHARTERS ON NORTH ATLANTIC HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED. AT THE TIME IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR US TO ACT ON THAT INFO WITHOUT RISK OF COMPROMISING SOURCE (MME. THOMASSET) AND IN ABSENCE ANY FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH PRACTICE WAS IN FACT ESTABLISHED SGAC POLICY. HOWEVER, CONFIRMATION IS NOW IN HAND.

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3. WE HAVE OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE COPY OF LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 15, 1974 FROM ABRAHAM, WHO WAS THEN STILL DEPUTY

DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORT AT SGAC, ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AIR FRANCE AND CONFIRMING AN EARLIER ORAL AUTHORIZATION OF PART CHARTERS. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND FUEL RESTRICTIONS WERE CITED IN LETTER AS JUSTIFYING THIS "PROVISIONAL" AUTHORIZATION, PERMITTING AIR FRANCE TO TRANSFER ON FULL PLANELOAD BASIS TO ITS 747 SCHEDULED FLIGHTS CHARTER GROUPS THAT HAD BEEN BOOKED FOR PASSAGE ON 707 CHARTER AIRCRAFT. OTHER CONDITIONS ATTACHED WERE LIMITATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO FLIGHTS IN FRANCE-US DIRECTION ONLY IN VIEW OF CAB REFUSAL OF PART CHARTERS FOR PANAM; SEPARATE REGISTRATION OF CHARTER PASSENGERS ON OCCASION 747 DEPARTURES; AND SUBMISSION OF FOLLOW-UP REPORT INDICATING NUMBER OF CHARTER PASSENGERS AND NUMBER OF "PASSENGERS WHO TRAVELED NORMALLY ON THE SCHEDULED FLIGHT."

4. SGAC POLICY AS LAID DOWN IN ABRAHAM LETTER WAS CERTAINLY STILL VALID AS OF JULY (REFTEL) SINCE IT IS NOW EVIDENT THAT IN AUTHORIZING PART CHARTERS OUR SGAC SOURCE WAS ACTING UNDER POLICY DICTATES OF HIGHER AUTHORITY, AND PANAM TELLS US THAT ONLY A WEEK AND A HALF AGO ESPEROU OF SGAC INFORMALLY RENEWED EARLIER OFFER TO AUTHORIZE PART CHARTERS FOR PANAM ANYTIME CARRIER MIGHT REQUEST IT.

5. WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT AIR FRANCE APPARENTLY PLANS TO OPERATE ALL OF ITS WEEKEND ITC'S (PARIS 20500, STATE 189394) AS PART CHARTERS ON ITS 747 SCHEDULED SERVICE TO NEW YORK, AND INCLUDING THE RETURN LEG NEW YORK-PARIS NOTWITHSTANDING THE "ONE WAY" CAVEAT CONTAINED IN THE ABRAHAM LETTER. WE WENT AROUND TO THE AIR FRANCE SALES OFFICE ON THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES PROFESSING INTEREST IN RESERVATION FOR WEEKEND ITC'S AND THEN DID THE SAME AGAIN BY PHONE. WE WERE TOLD QUITE OPENLY THAT TRAVEL WOULD BE VIA 747 IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AND WHEN WE ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD BE CHARTER AIRCRAFT WE WERE INFORMED THAT WEEKEND ITC'S WERE NOT CHARTERS AND THAT TRAVEL WOULD BE ON AIR FRANCE SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. DEPARTURE FROM PARIS WOULD BE AT 1 PM FRIDAYS AND DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK FOR RETURN WOULD BE AT 7 PM MONDAYS, I.E., FLIGHTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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AF 077 AND AF 070 RESPECTIVELY AS SHOWN IN CURRENT AIR FRANCE TIMETABLE VALID THROUGH OCTOBER 31. THE FIRST WEEKEND ITC'S PROGRAMMED ARE FOR NOV. 1, 15 AND 29. WE WERE TOLD THAT WHILE WEEKEND ITC PROGRAM HAD STILL NOT RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT RESERVATIONS BE MADE WELL IN ADVANCE INCLUDING SIMULTANEOUS DOWNPAYMENT OF 50 PERCENT OF 1,500 FR. FARE (ABOUT \$315 AT CURRENT RATE OF EXCHANGE). (PANAM TELLS US IT UNDERSTANDS AIR FRANCE ORGANIZATION JET TOURS HAS ALREADY BOOKED EQUIVALENT OF HALF THE CAPACITY OF A 747).

6. PANAM FURTHER TELLS US THAT IT HAS LEARNED ESPEROU

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      NSC-07 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 061458Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2066

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IS PREPARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WEEKEND ITC'S (AS WELL AS PROBLEM OF STUDENT FARES) SHORTLY WITH CAB. (WE PASSED ON SUBSTANCE OF STATE 189394 TO ESPEROU FOR SGAC AND AIR FRANCE INFORMATION AND ALSO TO US SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED CARRIER REPS.)

7. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED FACTS REPORTED THIS MESSAGE WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES.

8. COMMENT: WE WOULD HOPE THAT SGAC'S GENERAL POLICY ON PART CHARTERS COULD BE DEALT WITH BY USG WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO CAB DETERMINATION ON ANY EVENTUAL WAIVER FOR FRENCH ORIGIN WEEKEND ITC'S TO US, IN WHICH US TRAVEL SERVICE AND US CARRIERS PANAM, WORLD AND TIA ARE MUCH INTERESTED. SHOULD AN EVENTUAL WAIVER BE GRANTED, RESTRICTIVE WORDING COULD PERHAPS RESOLVE THE PART CHARTER ASPECT SATISFACTORILY INsofar AS WEEKEND ITC'S ARE CONCERNED. HOWEVER, THE SGAC'S GENERAL POLICY ON

PART CHARTERS OBVIOUSLY HAS BROADER RAMIFICATIONS TOUCH-  
ING ON A WHOLE RANGE OF QUESTIONS INCLUDING UNFAIR  
COMPETITION, IATA DECISIONS ON NORTH ATLANTIC SCHEDULED  
FARE STRUCTURE, TRAFFIC DATA IN THE US-FRANCE ROUTE  
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TALKS, AND THE UPCOMING TRILATERAL TALKS ON CHARTERS AT  
OTTAWA. A LETTER COMMENTING IN GREATER DETAIL ON SOME OF  
THESE ASPECTS WILL BE POUCHED TO MEADOWS (EB/AV) TOGE-  
THER WITH COPY AND INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ABRAHAM  
LETTER. ADVISE IF EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE ANY ACTION IN THE  
MEANTIME.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AVIATION REGULATIONS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR SCHEDULES, PASSENGERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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